



# Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley

## NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Teresa Alvarado (408-278-2210)

### **Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley Announces 2007 *La Familia Award* Recipients**

**Menlo Park Family to be Recognized for Community Service**

**San Jose, CA** – Aug. 21, 2007 – Stanford University professor, Dr. Al Camarillo, along with his wife, Susan, and three adult children, have been selected to receive the 2007 *La Familia Award*, the highest honor of the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley presented to a family who has demonstrated exemplary commitment and volunteer service to the community. The Camarillos will be presented with the award at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Charity Ball on October 13, 2007, in downtown San Jose.

When asked about receiving the *La Familia Award*, Al Camarillo says, “Receiving recognition for the volunteer work we find so intrinsically rewarding to perform is an unexpected and overwhelming joy. If this recognition encourages other families to participate in public service, we will be even further fulfilled.”

The youngest of six children, Dr. Camarillo grew up in one of the first Latino families to settle in Compton, California, and has seen firsthand the impact of segregation and poverty. From an early age, his parents instilled in him the value of education and sharing with those less fortunate.

The Camarillo family has dedicated more than ten years to Shelter Network, a non-profit organization committed to providing housing and support services to homeless families and individuals along the Peninsula. Al Camarillo serves on the Shelter Network’s board of directors and has helped pilot a “Family to Family” program that encourages families to volunteer alongside other families living at the shelter. Dr. Camarillo also created a course at Stanford called “Poverty and Homelessness in America” to help infuse an awareness of these issues in students and create and sustain community service as part of campus living.

Susan Camarillo, a school counselor at Crocker Middle School in Hillsborough, is a member of the Support Committee for Shelter Network’s Haven Family House in Menlo Park. She has helped coordinate shelter events, holiday food baskets and other events, encouraging many to volunteer their time and demystifying homeless stereotypes in the process.

Not unlike their parents, the Camarillo children continue to make contributions to the communities in which they live and work. Jeffrey Camarillo, 28, works at a Compton middle school and is involved with the East Palo Alto Mural Art Project. Greg Camarillo, 25, a wide receiver with the San Diego Chargers, along with his brother Jeffrey, co-founded *Charging Forward for Academic and Athletic Success*, an organization they started to reward student success in the classroom and on the field.

The youngest member of the Camarillo family, Lauren, is a second year student at UCLA. She created “Hip Hop Haven,” a program that teaches the art of dance and Hip-Hop to children being assisted by Shelter Network. In her first year at UCLA, she has been involved with UCLA UniCamp, the official

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student charity of the University of California Los Angeles, that inspires children from low-income families to envision brighter futures.

Lynelle Bilsey, volunteer coordinator for Shelter Network, nominated the Camarillos for the *La Familia Award* and describes the Menlo Park family as “beacons of light that inspire and encourage hundreds of volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life to get involved in their community.”

For more information, visit [www.hfsv.org](http://www.hfsv.org).

### **About the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley**

The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley cultivates philanthropy to inspire Hispanic children and families to achieve personal greatness. The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley engages leadership and bridges resources to invest in a thriving Hispanic community.

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